

# STRONG PASSWORDS



## Tips for making your passwords secure:

- **Length is more important than complexity.**  
*The longer your password, the harder it is for someone to crack it.*
- **Use all the different characters you are permitted.**  
*Ideally, you should use uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters for all your passwords.*
- **When creating passwords, create an anagrammed sentence with number substitutions and punctuation.**  
*For example: "I love my dog Buster, he is the best ever!" would be "1IMD8hiTb3!" These are much harder to crack because they are a seemingly random grouping of letters or numbers.*
- **Do not use the same password for at least all your important accounts.**  
*If one of your accounts were to become compromised, then the attacker would have access to all of your accounts.*
- **Do not use information that is publicly known or can be found in any dictionary of any language.**  
*Such as a birthday, your street address, who your favorite music artist is, popular words or phrases, etc.*
- **Do not use chain-link login information.**  
*For example, do not use your Facebook credentials to log into another site. Again, this makes all your accounts vulnerable if your social media account is hacked.*
- **A good way to have a secure password is to use a password safe.**  
*Password safes generate random, complex passwords for each of your accounts and stores them within the application, so you do not need to remember each one. You just need to remember your password safe login.*



For more information visit:  
<http://itsecurity.gmu.edu>



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